

SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB

BULLETIN

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MARCH, 1944

THE FOUR CORNERS

Alfred M. Bailey, rapidly becoming an institution on our lecture programs, will entertain the March 27 meeting of the St. Louis Bird Club. This will be the fourth occasion that he has presented colorful out-of-door lectures for our audiences. "The Four Corners", meeting place of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah, and the home of the Navajos, is the subject of Alfred Bailey's all-color film. The motion picture sequences were taken on a field trip for the Colorado Museum of Natural History, of which he is the Director. Similar museum expeditions have carried him to four continents as a member of a Biological Survey Expedition to the Hawaiian Islands, as leader of the Colorado Museum of Natural History Expedition to Arctic Alaska and Siberia, as a naturalist on the Field Museum Expedition to Abyssinia and the Egyptian Sudan. He has photographed the birds and animals of every state in the Union, in Canada, Mexico, and the Bahamas and has published many worthwhile articles. The naturalists on the field trip to the Four Corners have secured unusually fine motion picture close-ups of many species of animals and plants encountered. Included are many scenes of this wildly beautiful region, the high mountains of Colorado, home of the Ptarmigan, the Goose-necks of San Juan, Mesa Verde National Park, the famous Ship Rock, the picturesque Monument Valley with its Navajo Indians. "The Four Corners" promises to be the best of the Bailey films, and this is quite a statement in itself. It is free and open to the public, on Monday, March 27 at 8:00 P.M. at Soldan High School.



Alfred M. Bailey

LOYALTY NIGHT

Cleve and Ruth Grant, among the foremost of the nation's photographers, will highlight the season's lecture program when they present their remarkable natural color film, "From Marsh to Mountain". This program has been designated as Bird Club LOYALTY NIGHT. Once each year the Club finds it necessary to charge admission to a lecture to help defray the cost of the season's program. This is the opportunity for the many club members and their friends who have attended our lectures in the past to show their appreciation and at the same time spend a delightful evening with acknowledged bird experts. Cleve Grant will need no introduction to many St. Louisians. He is not only well versed in photography but an excellent speaker and an authoritative naturalist, having been Director of Extension, Baker-Hunt Museum; Director, Kentucky Audubon Society; member of the Board of Directors, the Audubon Society of Ohio; Past President, Chicago Ornithological Society; former Extension Lecturer and Acting Curator in charge of School Extension Department, Field Museum of Natural History. His former lectures here have never failed to captivate the audience, and this year's offering promises to surpass his previous successes. The now famous Life Magazine sequences on the Holboell's grebe, avocet, Wilson's phalarope, song birds, marsh birds, water fowl, and spectacular big game birds will spot-light the LOYALTY NIGHT program. Within the next few days LOYALTY NIGHT tickets will be sent to each Club Member, and it is our hope that he make every effort to sell his four tickets. Do not forget Bird Club LOYALTY NIGHT, Thursday, April 27 at 8:00 P.M., Soldan High School, admission fifty cents.



ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

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CLEAVES LECTURES TO 1,000

A crowd of over 1,000 that jammed the St. Louis University Auditorium to near capacity to hear Howard Cleaves was privileged. It showed by spontaneous applause and an almost constant undercurrent of chuckles that our guest lecturer was a delightful raconteur as well as a skilful photographer.

Cleaves' unusual motion picture "Midnight Movies in Animal Land" covered a wide range of animal life. . . whistling swan, shrew, spider, seal, gar, tree swallow, and tree frog. He carried us from Staten Island to the Pacific Coast, from Wisconsin to Okefenokee Swamp, Georgia, and back again to New York.

It is difficult to choose the outstanding shot from so many that were truly outstanding, but we'll nominate the underwater scenes of the scaup diving for food, the unique eel fishing in the New Jersey surf, the ravenous steak-eating shrew, and the amusing episode involving families raccoon and Cleaves.

The neophyte naturalists and the omniscient ornithologists in St. Louis and area join in saying "Come back soon, Howard Cleaves".

ANNUAL MEETING

Club members attending the Annual Meeting, January 19, at the Washington University School of Medicine Auditorium were treated to a well-rounded and extremely entertaining program. The colored motion pictures by Club Member Dr. George E. Hourn "Birds from His Window" were exceptionally well received as were the excellent color flower and nature slides of George E. Moore, Park Naturalist of the Meramec State Park. John C. McGuire gave amazingly accurate bird imitations. During that portion of the program devoted to business, officers were elected and important constitutional changes were adopted. The newly re-elected officers are: Wayne Short, President; Luther Ely Smith, Vice-President; Ethel Wolfe, Secretary; Anne Bayha, Treasurer. The amendments were so designed as to change the club's official and fiscal year to coincide with the so-called "activity year", which has always been on a Fall through Spring basis. The annual meetings will henceforth be held in May, at which time officers will be elected to serve until the next annual meeting. Thus, the newly elected officers will serve for the unusual term of one year and five months. The \$1.00 Club dues will now be payable each October instead of each January. Sustaining dues will become due 12 months after taking out a Sustaining membership to conform with the National Audubon Society's collecting process.

Bernard Greensfelder recently suggested that an interchange of correspondence between those interested in bird life throughout the American Republics might tend to help the Good Neighbor Policy of the President. Mr. Greensfelder is the Executor of the Inter-American Center of St. Louis. This enterprise, sponsored by Nelson Rockefeller, Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, is engaged at present in an educational campaign to interest people in the St. Louis area in the study of Latin-American affairs. We feel that such a gesture would be not only neighborly but potentially of great interest. Anyone desiring to accept Mr. Greensfelder's invitation should contact Wayne Short at 1207 N. Seventh Street, Central 0631.

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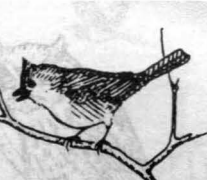
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Observations



There are not many more Sundays before April 2 rolls around, and with it the first of the April Bird Walks. Last year's Walks were the best we have ever had. This activity of the Bird Club has become a tradition that we do not want to break. Available leaders and assistants this year present such a small looking list that we must appeal to all members with sufficient training to offer their services.

Bird Walks will be held each Sunday in April beginning from Jefferson Memorial at 7:30 A.M.

Francis MacNutt, having been transferred from Harvard to Washington University, is once again a resident of Vandeventer Place. As the unofficial census taker, he has faithfully recorded the coming and going of the bird population in the Place for a number of years. Quoting Francis, "Vandeventer Place, three blocks from the Fox and Missouri Theatres and sandwiched between Grand and Vandeventer (with a normal wildlife population of rats, Starlings, and English Sparrows) is the stopping off place for an amazing number of birds in migration". He lists 51 species that he has seen from 1939 through 1943 as follows: Sparrow Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Blue Jay, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Starling, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Western Palm Warbler, Northern Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Goldfinch, Towhee, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow.

Here we are at Spring's doorstep again. It is time to start thumbing through seed catalogs, to sharpen spades, to put the finishing touches on the new birdhouses. Last year Don Menke (now Ensigen Menke) and Bill Kelley were doing the latter. In due time, four houses were placed at strategic locations on the property of a private residence of a few acres in the heart of Glendale. Three boxes were of the Bluebird and the fourth of the Flicker type.

By the end of March, two of the houses had had a thorough inspection, and the first week in April found four Bluebird eggs in boxes at opposite ends of the property. The third small box was occupied by a House Wren that shortly changed the interior into a nursery for five hungry fledglings. The Bluebirds had hardly broken up housekeeping in the far pasture when a pair of Bewick's Wrens moved in and built their nest over the remains of the first. On May 4, four eggs were discovered in the large box. Father Crested Flycatcher, however, neglected to include in it a snake skin as he is classically wont to do. Later on in the season, two families of Bluebirds made use of the boxes again.

These were only four of the seventeen species observed nesting on the property during the Spring . . . Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Flicker, Bluejay, Robin, three families of Wood Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Towhee, Cardinal, Mourning Dove, Starling, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Bob-White. Well over 90 birds were brought into the world on this small tract of land.

Life in this bird community was not without its trouble and tragedies, however. The Red-bellied Woodpecker had no sooner chiseled his home out of a dead White Oak limb when he was evicted by a couple of Starlings. After a few feeble protests, he started to work on another, this time unmolested. One night in May, four young Towhees were carried away by a swollen stream during a cloud burst.

Truly, it has taken the gasoline and tire shortage to make us look at our feet to find a fertile field for observation and study.

It is with deepest regret that we record the death of Miss Jennie Chase, Secretary-Treasurer of the St. Louis Bird Club from 1921 through 1924. Miss Chase was well known to many through her teaching endeavors. Her published poetry endeared her to many more. Those of us who were fortunate enough to work with her in the Club are left with a sense of great sorrow.

The response to our appeal for Sustaining Memberships has been little short of amazing! One glance at the last page of the Bulletin will verify this fact. Two-thirds of the column is composed of names of new Sustaining Members since the first of the year. This is especially gratifying in that it reflects our serious intention to make the Branch Plan a success.



Who's Who?



If the owl may be said to be wise, certainly we can now state that the particular member of the feathered folk is the Bluebird. Members of the Northwoods Garden Club put up Bluebird houses last Spring and waited and watched eagerly for tenants. Only one little house was occupied and the Bluebirds chose as their landlady, Mrs. Henry Bartels, Bird Chairman of the East Central Region, Hostess for Junior Bird Day at the Stix, Baer & Fuller Exhibition Hall on February 19, and President of the Northwoods Garden Club. We hope they were setting an example for other Bluebirds in the vicinity and that many of the members of the Northwoods Garden Club will be made happy this Spring.

Wayne Short will review the new J. J. Hickey book, "A Guide to Bird Watching" on one of the Library's regular Book Reviews, Tuesday, March 28, at 12:15 P.M., St. Louis Public Library, Thirteenth and Olive Streets. This promises to be a highly interesting review of a book you will all want on your own book-shelves.

Mildred Reese and Max Schwarz will continue as Board Members for this season having been reappointed by the newly re-elected officers.

Bill Dierker, now stationed at Wheaton, Illinois, was in St. Louis on furlough and was able to attend the Howard Cleaves lecture. Mrs. Pearl Brouwer of the Milwaukee Audubon Society also attended the lecture.

The family of Ensign Donald Menke has just been increased from three to four, the latest addition in the form of a baby girl. Nell Menke, a member of our Bulletin Editorial Staff, informs us that her husband is glad to be able to stop his pacing and get back to the business of winning the war.

Dean William G. Bowling introduced the speaker, Mr. Cleaves, at our last lecture.

Mrs. Irma Rombauer, author of the best seller, "The Joy of Cooking" is one of our very ardent members. We might suggest that her next book be "The Joy of Birding"!

New Sustaining Members since January 1: Richard A. Bullock, Mrs. William B. G. Carson, Mrs. Daniel K. Catlin, Barbara Cousland, Mrs. J. A. Evans, Mrs. J. D. Perry Francis, Leonard Hall, Mrs. T. J. Kemp, Charles W. Kreher, E. A. Kuntzmann, Mrs. Roy Nobel, Mrs. George Wm. Pieksen, Mrs. Charles M. Rice, Mrs. George Smith, Dr. Selden Spencer, Elizabeth K. Turk, H. L. Veach, George P. Vierheller, Horton Watkins, Edith Williams, Leigh Wyman. Changed from Active to Sustaining: S. W. Allender, Mrs. Carrie F. Barrere, Bill Bauer, Anne Bayha, Anna Bentfield, Nora L. Binnington, Mrs. W. G. Bowling, Louise F. Conzelman, Mrs. Jack Deeble, Edna Danhaupt, Frances Farnsworth, Jean Fay, Emily Fischer, Lucien R. Fouke, Mrs. Everts A. Graham, Dr. Kate L. Gregg, Dr. Theodore H. Hanser, Marguerite Hausdorf, Helen A. Henke, Joan Vivion Henry, Ethel M. Heuser, Dr. George E. Hourn, Mrs. Erle R. Jackson, Merle M. Jackson, Lois Karr, Evelyn Koenig, Prof. Paul E. Kretzmann, A. C. Lorenzon, Laura S. Malone, Mrs. Clark McAdams, Billie McCord, Dr. Frank E. McKillop, Julian Neill, Ken Niewoehner, Mrs. Elmer W. Oehler, Waldemar A. Palm, Mrs. Olive B. Parker, L. M. Phelan, Mrs. H. H. Quynn, Mildred Reese, Mrs. Irma S. Rombauer, Charlotte M. Rust, Mrs. H. P. Sawyer, Helen Schwaner, S. Edward Scott, Louise Simpkins, Mrs. Hilda E. Stroh, Mrs. Edna Stueck, John C. Talbot, Mrs. John C. Talbot, Hildegard W. Tavenner, Ethel Von Hahn, William D. Walsh, Katherine White. Mrs. George O. Carpenter, a Life Member, has also become a Sustaining Member.

New Active Members since January 1: W. G. Bowling, Ellis R. Brockman, Mildred Byars, Charles M. Carey, Mrs. E. W. Collins, Charles J. Dolan, William W. Dierker, J. A. Evans, Caroline D. Fowler, Genevieve Friedman, Carlotta K. Galvan, McCune Gill, A. Greiner, Earl G. Hilger, Jr., Mrs. Frank Kramer, Dorothy D. Lamb, Francis Lutz, Leona McGann, Mrs. Ida H. Oonk, Corinne O'Reilly, Mrs. Genevieve M. Pellettieri, M. Bernice Perkins, Fred T. Rensch, Joseph Struckhoff, L. C. Taake, Selma A. Wiegmann, Mrs. Ralph Wilson, Mary Jane Wolf, Mrs. Lillie Woodson, Mrs. Fanny C. Wyman, Dr. Paul J. Zentay.